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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the method of Fig. 5, the modem pool has reached steady state, and the performance of each modem is measured (step 500). Modem performance may be expressed as the modem's signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) any as other measure of modem performance known in the art. A new modem, referred to herein as a "foreign" modem, is then inserted into [[to]] modem pool (step 502). "Insertion" of a "new modem" as used herein may denote the physical insertion and activation of a modem into the modem pool or simply the activation of an inactive modem that is already physically part of the modem pool. At least one NEXT cancellation filter is then assigned for each currently-active modem, referred to herein as a "native" modem, in the modem pool (step 504). These filters are referred to herein as "probes," as their task is to measure the NEXT caused to each native modem by the foreign modem. The foreign modem is then activated at a predetermined data rate, preferably at the foreign modem's maximum data rate, and at a predetermined power level, preferably at a minimum power level well below the foreign modem's normal operational power level (step 506). Preferably, no attempt is made at this point to synchronize the foreign modem, although the foreign modem's transmitted signal typically occupies the entire usable bandwidth. The probes then begin filtering the foreign modem's NEXT (step 508). Once the probes have adapted to the foreign modem's NEXT and converged (step 510), the performance of each modem is again measured (step 511) to determine whether its operation has "suffered" due to the insertion of the foreign modem (step 512). This may be expressed as a lowering of the

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native modem's SNR or by degradation in any other measure of modem performance known in the art. If no native modems have suffered due to the insertion of the foreign modem, and the foreign modem is not operating at its normal operational power level (step 514), the power level of the foreign modem is increased (step 516), typically by a predetermined factor, and steps 508 - 514 are repeated. If any native modem is found to have suffered due to the insertion of the foreign modem then the foreign modem is deactivated (step 518). Once the foreign modem has reached its normal operational power level without degrading the performance of any native modem, the foreign modem may perform normal synchronization to determine its optimal data rate (step 520) and thus be successfully integrated into the modem pool.--